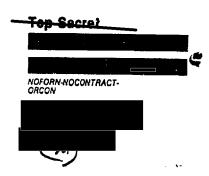


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IRAN-IRAQ: Halt to War of Cities Proposed

Iraq has announced it will end its missile attacks today if Iran stops missile attacks and artillery shelling of Iraqi cities. A senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry official told the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council of the proposal yesterday and said Baghdad is counting on a renewed effort at the UN for comprehensive sanctions against Iran. Iran said yesterday it had agreed to a Red Cross proposal to halt the missile exchanges. Iraq fired at least nine missiles yesterday and today, and Iran retaliated by launching a missile at Baghdad. Iraq has fired at least 62 missiles; Iran, 22.

Comment: Iraq and Iran almost certainly want to end the war of the cities, although the exchanges may continue as each party tries to strike the last blow. Iraq probably wants to save its remaining missiles, perhaps as many as 70, to retaliate against Iran for future missile attacks or a major ground offensive. Baghdad is also probably concerned that the war of the cities has focused the Security Council's attention on the recent Soviet proposal to end the missile exchanges rather than on sanctions against Iran. The Iranians have fewer missiles than Iraq and are probably concerned that Iraqi attacks may seriously undermine morale in Tehran.



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